

Message Text

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ARA/ECP:WBURSON (DRAFT)

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P R 241315Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED U.S.-BRASILIA SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: (A) BRASILIA 7518; (B) STATE 184883

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN RESPONSE REFTEL A ARE PROVIDED FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND AND POSSIBLE USE IN RESPONDING TO INFORMAL INQUIRIES FROM GOB CONCERNING PROPOSED SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

2. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GROUP'S MANDATE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING TRADE POLICY. ITS WORK SHOULD BE STRICTLY CONFINED TO TOPICS DESCRIBED PARA CONFIDENTIAL

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1 REFTEL B, I.E. INFORMATION EXCHANGE, MARKET DEVELOPMENT

AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE. WE BELIEVE TRADE ISSUES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE SUBGROUP ON TRADE OR, AS APPROPRIATE, THE SIMON/ SIMONSEN CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM; IF SUFFICIENTLY URGENT, SUCH ISSUES CAN ALWAYS BE DEALT WITH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD REQUIRE EXPANDING DELEGATIONS OF SOYBEAN GROUP TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM AGENCIES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PARTICULAR TRADE ISSUE BEING DISCUSSED, WOULD DUPLICATE THE MANDATE OF THE TRADE SUBGROUP AND MOST IMPORTANTLY MIGHT RAISE SUSPICION OF THIRD COUNTRIES AS TO THE REAL INTENT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN TWO MAJOR PRODUCERS OF SOYBEANS .

3. TO ALLAY APPARENT CONCERN OF GOB AGENCIES THAT SOYBEAN GROUP MIGHT GET INTO TRADE POLICY AREAS AND TO ENSURE THAT SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY THE GROUP WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO OTHERS IN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE CALLED TO THEIR ATTENTION, WE PROPOSE THAT ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (OR OTHER GOB AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE AS APPROPRIATE) ALSO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE GROUP.

4. RE: QUESTION RAISED IN PARA 7 REFTTEL A CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF A TWO-TIER CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ON SOYBEANS, REFERENCE IN USDA DOCUMENT TO CONSULTATIVE GROUP REFERS TO EXISTING SUB-GROUP ON TRADE. WE ENVISAGE ESTABLISHING ONLY ONE GROUP, I.E. THE U.S.-BRAZILIAN SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP WITH MANDATE OUTLINED IN REFTTEL B.

5. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING POINTS TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS GOB MIGHT RAISE WHILE DEVELOPING ITS POSITION. WE REQUEST, HOWEVER, THAT NO REACTION TO FORMAL GOB RESPONSE BE GIVEN BEFORE INTERESTED AGENCIES HERE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT CAREFULLY.

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